

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1 to 8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A method for manufacturing a low-sintering PZT-based piezoelectric ceramic material, comprising: mixing together ions added in the form of powdered oxides or powdered carbonates as starting compounds, and calcining the starting compounds to form the piezoelectric ceramic material, wherein after calcining the starting compounds, lithium in ionic form is added to the mixture in an amount in the range of 0.01 to 0.1 wt.% in relation to the weight of the PZT ceramic, wherein a sintering temperature in the range of 850°C to 950°C is obtained for the mixture of calcined starting compounds and ionic lithium.

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein lithium is added in the form of Li_2CO_3 or LiNO_3 .

11. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein PZT compounds simply doped using rare earth metals are used as the PZT base materials.

12. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 11, wherein the rare earth metal is La or ~~Nb~~ Nd.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 10, wherein PZT compounds simply doped using rare earth metals are used as the PZT base materials.

14. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 9, wherein PZT compounds doped using combinations of elements selected from the group consisting of Ca, La, Nb, Fe, and Cu are used as the PZT base materials.

15. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 10, wherein PZT compounds doped using combinations of elements selected from the group consisting of Ca, La, Nb, Fe, and Cu are used as the PZT base materials.

16. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 14, wherein a low-sintering piezoelectric ceramic material having significantly increased elongation values compared to lithium-free materials is obtained.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 15, wherein a low-sintering piezoelectric ceramic material having significantly increased elongation values compared to lithium-free materials is obtained.

Claims 18 to 19. (Canceled).

20. (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 48 9, wherein a sintering temperature of about 900° C is ~~employed~~ obtained.

21. (Currently Amended) A piezoelectric multilayer actuator having internal electrodes made of pure silver, the actuator comprising a PZT-based low-sintering piezoelectric ceramic material according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~ [9].

22. (Currently Amended) A motor vehicle fuel injection system comprising the piezoelectric multilayer actuator according to Claim 21.